



COMMITTEE of the WHOLE

CITY COUNCIL

MINUTES
July 23, 2012
5:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:

F. Acosta, D. Reed, J. Waltman, D. Sterner, R. Corcoran, M. Goodman-Hinnershitz

OTHERS PRESENT:

L. Kelleher, C. Younger, C. Jones, C. Snyder, M. Vind, V. Spencer, M. Bembenick, R. Johnson

The Committee of the Whole meeting was called to order at 5:10 pm by Council President Acosta.

I. PennVest Loan

Mr. Vind stated that this represents the 2nd part of the PennVest loan transaction. This resolution will allow us to reimburse the Sewer Fund for expenses generated by the project. The ordinance being introduced authorizes the debt. This loan is self-liquidating from the sewer revenue. The PennVest loan is for \$10,013,950 for 20 years with an interest rate of \$1.007% for the first 5 years and 2.013% for the 6th through 20th year.

Mr. Waltman stressed the need to finalize the IMAs with surrounding municipalities. He expressed the belief that the IMAs should have been finalized years ago.

Mr. Vind stated that the refunding of the 2008 E Bond will generate approximately \$1M in savings for the 2012 fiscal year. He stated that the market is slow and they are still seeking investors.

II. Reading Phillies Loan

Ms. Snyder requested an executive session regarding the negotiation of the amendment to the lease agreement with the Reading Phillies. The Solicitor advised that the request for an executive session was valid under Sunshine Act Section 708.a.5. The executive session convened at approximately 5:20 and concluded at approximately 6:25 pm.

When the Committee of the Whole reconvened, Mr. Acosta disclosed that after the executive session discussion concluded that discussions were held about personnel matters that qualify for executive session under Sunshine Act 708.a.1.

III. Citizens Service Center (CSC)

Council questioned the process used by the CSC to handle complaints. It was noted that there are problems with the way SRs are issued, followed up and closed out. They noted that using the CSC the Council Office resolution rate fell from 95% to 65%. Council also noted the communication problem between the Council Staff, Council Members and the CSC. Mr. Bembenick was asked to review the process used to handle citizen issues, the communication requirements between the CSC and Council area (Staff and Councilors) and to report back within 30 days.

The Committee of the Whole meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

*Respectfully Submitted by
Linda A. Kelleher, CMC, City Clerk*